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## 96 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE.N.Y.C. 10022

## Musters of Marvelous Membruls,

I have three subjects to discuss concerning your fantestic NEW X MEN To begin;

Conjustulations on issue #100. The artwork was even better than usual, and—together with the plot—it moved so smooth and tast that the story was over before it began. I just object to anniversally issues being continued.

Secondly there is something in the X-Men that gets my adronlin flowing, and the reason is obvious. The unique feel of internationalism in all those new, fresh theroas circks relays and activates systems. On that note, 1-cannot resist listing my feworitiss.

Colossus is at the top of my list. He has a friendly, have sura coupled with vibes of incredible raw power. wowl

Nighterawler is seeded Most of your physically non-human heroes are gruff, sercestic, or plain dumb, but Nighterawler comes across suave and sophisticated, almost a Tony Stark with a tail.

With Wolverine, I have a horror fascination. I keep my system him to set what the manuac will do next. Oh, a question Why does everybody call film "shorty" "midget etc. He doesn't look that short.

Storm is one of Marvel's deepest characters, but I'd just as soon leave my weather making to Thor (But it could be an interesting team up.)

Finally I have a great nomination for a new X Munif He's one of Marve's oldest characters, he's a mutant, and his power is curtainly nothing to sheer at Who, you ask? Why none other than Magnetol.

if you recall, in DEFENDERS #16, the godling Alpha gave Magneto and the other Evil Mutants a new lease on life by

revisiting them all to bubyhood.

Now what bettir place to raise five infant homo superiors than Professor X's spocially designed school, a place where they would be set on the right path this time, to grow up as heroes missed of villains. Well?

Morray Lindsay Box 245 Etrose, Sasi atchewyn Canada SOL OZO

Funny you should mention Magneto, Murray! 'Cause if you saw our last page, you now know that he's coming back with a wangeene! As to just how he sprung back from babyhood... well, that's a story that will be unfolding in the issues to come.

You do bring up an interesting point about Wolverine, though! Why do they call him "shorty"? We put the question to Associate Editor Jim Shooter (67"), who swiftly replied, "Because firs a runt!"
"Yeah, that's right!" agreed Assistant Editor Scott Edelman

(6'4'')
"Aw, he's not that short!" chided Reprint Editor Roger
Stern (5''R'')

"He is tool" yelled in visiting artist Dave Cockrum (5'10").
"Wolverine is only about five-foot four!"

Editor in chief Archie Goodwin (5'8") was unavailable for comment.

## Dear Chris and Dave,

You describe commendations for the one hundredth issue of THE X-MEN. Technically the majazine was a knockout. Dave's artwork and Bonni's coloring were comparable to Neal Adems work on the 1969 Sentinels trillogy. Clins scripting was wonder fully diamatic without being indicaragetic especially in this treatment of Jeans decision and its execution. Chris, sesting entrejach has for interest resion. I se, bein and X fear since 1970 Adl 6's time. I hought a sight visible visible visible at 3 good mutants were Coulcasus who just happened to live on measurs coat of the Direct Status. The emergence of an international and interrace utam is a just step forward. As a young of Orona I wonder now Chris will have been seen development of Orona I wonder now Chris will have been seen storage and a proper of whitemales. 10d I detect a possible romano between Orona and Peters in season 400 to 10d to 1

In the past, the writers of THE X MEN have always cast Scott as the dark, mysterious, brooding raid hings suffering Devices, as the dark mysterious, brooding raid hings suffering Devices. Characters who are always, eight hearted and carefree are usually less instructing their the somber toyee, Boy Thomas read eat the and as a resulf, Scott is the most memorable X Mus, and the and is a resulf, Scott is the most memorable X Mus, and the source of memorated memorated scott provided to the source of memorated scott provided to the source of the s

The new X MEN is a fascinating magazine, and a great (eam if Dave, Chris, and the rest of the crew keep up the good work, THE X MERI should anjoy a long run.

Matilyri Brögdon 1420 Washington Ave Bronx, NY 10456

### Dear Guys, Well you did it

Date, I dign't think you could top the artwork of GIANT-SIZE X MEN ×1 but issue ≈100 was even better. Dynamite!

Chris. X MEN ix 100 was also your best issue vit. It was arou to see the mellower side of Storm fins time around Not test. I don't adore those savings scribes, but you were turning he into a cold, stand offish meahle! Shis seemed so much more right to a cold, stand offish meahle! Shis seemed so much more right to me when she that do to also which the phony Maynel Griffings,

And the sudden flood of affect on for Wolverine shouldn't be too surprising. His deliciously awful slang and tough guy stance could win anybody's heart, and I'm no exception. Suce he's a

instead of instantly lashing out with brute force

homicodal maniec, but who cares? He's "ovabit."

Next issue? I'm dying to know what the radiation will do to Jachne. Will she get more powers? Will she lose some? It'll have be something drustic, "cause! I'mow she signt ing her own mag.

Gents, when you have a team as great as the new X Men, there is no excuse to let the quality fall below that of issue #100. Keep it up?

And as for higher updat have a

And as for highterwise being oute, why, I knew that right from the start. Much outer than that sidy disguise, anyway! May Great C thulu, take up rusidence in your lishbowl if you miss him up?

Michele Crossgrove 501 116th Ave. N. Apt. 279 St. Petersburg, F.L. 33702

Don't worry about Nighteraviler, Michele, 'Cause whitnesee Chris starts to write his dialogue. Dave suddenly burn's up behind him with a sledge hammer and a determined look. (If that doesn't keep him in line, nothing will!)

But what's all this about Jaun getting her own book? She an't oh, you probably heard the rumon that Jaen was joing to become Mi Marvell Ain't so, Michele As you know by now, Jaen became the Phoenix—quite Interally Carol Danvers is Mi. Marvell Chris a sure of that And he'd bloody well better bo, as he's taking over the writing reins for Marvel's newest super formale with the third also del her magnarier Watch for it, ya hear? And

join us again in sixty for more mighty mutant madness! Nulf said



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### STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

His gang! It's hard to believe a whole year has apped by since I wrote my last, emmently forgettable Thanksgiving poem on this very page. I was tempted to try another syncopated sonnet this time, but I figured I'd rather just rap with you instead. Anyway, speaking of Thanksoving, I wonder how many of you remember one of the prime goals on set for ourselves here at Manuel more then a decade ego. I recall writing that our greatest ambit on was to change the rnage of so-called comicbooks'- to take them from the exclusive domain of the bubble-gum brigade and expand our audience to include readers right up to college age— and beyond Well rest of the media felt we'd never make it. while our competitors just laughed at us. No one thought we had a ghost of a chance to grab a significant share of adult readership. But here in the betty Builtoen we were probably too naive to realize how impossible it was So we just kept on writing and illustrating the very best stories we could combining a university level vocabulary with mature concepts in plotting and characterization treather with while premises and return alizations. And, most important of all we never let ourselves forget that above else. Marvei Comics are mount be fun! No matter how scholarly matter how exofound no matter how philosophically or socially relevant yarns might be their primery purpose was (and still is) to entertain you, Finally, we vowed never to "write down" to you, we'd only present stories that we ourselves enjoyed tales we our selves would be anxious to read. So you see we weren t merely producing pablium for a bunch of nameters faceters kidswe were creating far out, fantastic epics for ourselves, and for countless thousands of our hip, heroic readers who share the some love of fantasy and excitement as we do And y'know something? It worked! We succeeded beyond our own evidest expectational Today, a full 50% of our readership is from 15 to 25 years of age! Today, newspapers radio, and TV are enthusiastically aware of us giving us more media coverage than almost any other oublecations! Today comichools conventions are among the biggest crowd pulling events in virtually every major city in the U.S. - and overseas as well! And there's more! One of the world's largest book publishers, Simon & Schuster has created virtually an entire line of Marvei hardcover editions while Gromet and Dunlag will soon be presenting another unique line of Marvel creations! Each week new invitations cross my deal, requests to speak about Marvel Corners at colleges and universities from Maine to Mexicol In short our dreams have come true comics have come of age! And we'll never forget not for one single second, that we owe it all to your Sa now, during this lestine Thanksgiving season mothing could be more appropriate than for all of us in the Maruel Bullions to extend to each and every one of you our deepest, most heartfest thanks for making it all possible, for making this truly Marvel Age of Comics!



them into successful comics (Like 1'r instance CONAN or THE INVADERS) muldenly pre sented us with a formult where virtually anything we wented to do would be possible? How? Well, that you'll find out when you see what Roy talented new penciler from Canada way JIM CRAIG, and eminent embelisher PABLO MARCOS have done with the novel notion WHAT IF SPIDE R MAN JOINED THE FANTASTIC FOUR This first issue oicks up on an incident from AMAZING SPIDER MAN #1 where Spider attempted to join the FF (and changed his mend) and builds it into one of the most unexpected and entertaining epics ever Naturally, something like this is too big to be contained in one average-size comic. So we've made WHAT IF ? a double length king size book just like our awesoms annuals, instead of being a mere once-a-year block buster, WHAT IF ? is going to be exploding on the newsstand every other month Each and every reue will have an exciting new concept (such as those we mentioned about Capt. America and the Husk, and an exciting new writer artist combo to bring it all alive for you in fact, we're set to be flooded with bales of 'what if' suggestions, once everyone gets a look at what we're doing If we're not careful, WHAT IF 2 could turn into the biggest thing since the no prize?

(TEM) Congratulations to Marvelous MARV and Meticulous MICHELE WOLFMAN who monthly engineered that they're expecting a baby (but there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Mary intends to hold another name the-child contest such as he's doing with the Lord of Vampire's off spring in TOMB OF DRACULAN

ETEM! publist on firs the nellowed halls of Marve I Word just came in that our Sultans of Softbail are currently tied for first place in their division of the Publisher's Softball League Said subilation is sorely needed as in a non-league exhibition game with a certain Distinguished Competitor the Bullipenners sometow managed to come in second A rematch has been talked about but next time we're making persain that their guy with the big red 'S on his chest doesn't get in the game!

ITEM! Two more good-es con his month, friends. MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #32, featuring the most surprising superhero of them at SPIDER WOMAN (And if you think you can guess what this one is like we're betting you re wrong) And Jinalli our gala HOLIDAY GRAB BAG TREASURY EDITION which leatures just about all of our cavortifig characters in some of their best stories from the past and in specially prepared all new material as well just to truly make the season bright!



ETEM! Almost no space left, so we'll quickly say "hi" to Devastating DAVIDA DALE recent addition to our art production staff Dimoir DIANE RODRIGO who assists Nifty NANCY MURPHY in processing your sub-scriptions, Jubilant JOHN ROMITA JR (Why does that name seem so familiar?), now doing pulse-pounding pencilling on some covers and back up stories, and Handy ANDY YANCHUS newly chosen Chieftain of our capricious Colo Department! And that's about it, except to say good bye and be good to yourselves!

JTEM! Over the last tew months we've hear making periodic mention of a new periodical we were planning called WHAT IF ? Wolf the planning is over and the real thing is nerel At last we can finally tell you just exactly what WHAT IF ? is Actually, it s the cumulation of a lot of things you readers have suggested to us, and a lot of things Buildenners have often talked about over funch or at a party whenever the standard shop-talk ("What new villain are you having Ghost Ricer meet after he linehes off the Cosmic Carburetor? ) begins to get wilder and more speculative. Things like. Gee, white would have happened if that buzz bomb which killed Bucky and sent Capt. America into suspended animation had never exploded? What if the Hu k had always had Bruce Banner's brain? Fun things like that which are fascinating to think about, but could never really be done without changing most of Marvel's Madcap history Then ROY THOMAS who has a knack for taking

the difficult or the improbable and turning

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ROGER SLIFER, SCOTT EDELMAN, ROGER STERN

Associate Editor **Assetsent Editors** GERRY CONWAY, ROY THOMAS, LEN WEIN MARY WOLFMAN



JOHN ROMITA Art Director

Consulting Editors JOHN VERPOORTEN Production Manager

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THE GREEN THUMB



AM, MY BEALTIFUL PLANTS...
MY OWN LITTLE GANG, WHAT
FINE SPECIMEN'S YOU ARE
RMCDA, MARIL ARTIE -- I PAUNT
YOU TO MEET THE HULK
THAT JAPE GANT IS GOING
TO KIN US...IN OUR NEXT
ROBBERY OF PLANONOS

































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